

**Auchentoroly Terrace Local Historic District Designation Report
Baltimore Commission for Historical and Architectural
Preservation Hearing March 9, 2004**



The Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation has the responsibility of recommending to the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore the adoption of ordinances designating districts and landmarks within the limits of the City of Baltimore having special historical, architectural, educational, cultural, social or community significance, interest, or value as Baltimore City Historic Districts or Landmarks, thereby necessitating their preservation, and protection. For a district to be considered for historic designation the Commission must receive applications requesting historic designation from a majority of the property owners in that district. In making its recommendation, the Commission shall give appropriate consideration to the following standards. In reaching its decision the Commission shall clearly state which standards have been applied

- A. An historic district should include historic sites, buildings, structures, or landmarks in their original setting which:
 - 1. Contribute to the heritage of the community.
 - 2. Represent one or more periods of styles of architecture, landscape architecture, building, or construction, which has significant character, interest, or value as part of the development, heritage, or culture of the City of Baltimore.
 - 3. Contain a sufficient number of structures of related or similar characteristics to make a recognizable entity within logical geographical boundaries, including, but not limited to parks or squares.
 - 4. Provide certain historic or scenic value significant to the area.

Auchentoroly Terrace consists of nine rows of housing, two mansion houses and two duplexes that face the south side of Druid Hill Park. Built between 1876 (The Orem and West mansions) to the mid 1920s, Auchentoroly Terrace represents an unusually impressive grouping of architecture. Framing the southern boundary of Druid Hill Park, the nine rows of housing create an eloquent contrast within a synergistic composition of neighborhood and Park. The eight blocks of housing meet all Local historic district designation standards:

- 1. Auchentoroly Terrace contributes to the heritage of the community by illustrating late 19th and early 20th Century rowhouse and neighborhood development in Baltimore City.
- 2. Auchentoroly Terrace represents one of Baltimore's most creative period of rowhouse architecture design. Furthermore Auchentoroly Terrace represents the last development period of three-story rowhouse development.
- 3. Auchentoroly Terrace contains 104 properties that all contribute to the district running along the southside of Druid Hill Park.
- 4. The eight blocks of rowhouses plus the mansions and duplexes provide historic and scenic value – a streetscape popularized by its border with Druid Hill Park. From this vantage point of seeing the houses in a horizontally expansive view shed, they become an ornate frame to Druid Hill Park.

Summary Significance

Built between 1876 and the 1930s Auchentoroly Terrace sits on the south side of Druid Park separated from the park by Swann Drive. The area was first originally patented by John Buchanan around 1723, according to a biography on Admiral Franklin Buchanan written by Charles Lee. He named it Auchentorolie after his home in Scotland. Auchentorolie was then purchased by Nicholas Rogers II. Druid Hill was part of Auchentorolie. In 1856 Lloyd Nicholas Rogers sold 33 ½ acres to John Morris Orem a Baltimore dry goods magnate. In 1860, the City purchased Druid Hill Park. Mr. Orem then built a large summer estate and named it Auchentoroly in tribute to Roger's old estate (this estate became Druid Hill and now is the Mansion House in Druid Hill Park, part of the Baltimore Zoo). In 1876 he built to other mansions on Auchentoroly Terrace and gave them to his son William Morris Orem and the other to his son in law William West. Today they asre apartment houses. In 1912, Park School resided in 3436 Auchentoroly Terrace. The school was the first in Baltimore to admit Jewish and Christians together. The other mansion house is 3442 Auchentoroly Terrace.





By 1896 2700-3000 Blocks of Auchentoroly Terrace were constructed. Between 1896-1906 3100-3300 were built. And between 1906 and 1914 3400 block of Auchentoroly Terrace were constructed. 3432 3436 and the two duplexes were constructed between WWI and WWII.

The development of 2700-3400 Block of Auchentoroly Terrace retains a high degree of integrity, meets the already stated criteria for designation. The Community has completed a comprehensive petition survey. Staff recommends approval of the historic district designation.



2700 Block Auchentoroly Terrace



2800 Block Auchentoroly Terrace (left) and 2900 Block Auchentoroly Terrace (right)



3000 Block Auchentoroly Terrace



3200 Block Auchentoroly Terrace



3300 Block Auchentoroly Terrace (left side of the row)



3300 Block Auchentoroly Terrace right side



3400 Block of Auchentoroly Terrace